

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

TYLER ALLEN CRAWFORD,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	No. 1:21-cv-00114-JPH-DLP
)	
WARDEN,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

Entry Directing Petitioner to Show Cause Why Action Should Not Be Dismissed

I.

The petitioner's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, dkt. [2], is **granted**.

II.

Petitioner Tyler Allen Crawford brings a writ of habeas corpus challenging his conviction for arson in disciplinary proceeding NCF 20-08-0049 on August 27, 2020.

Rule 4 of the *Rules Governing Section 2254 Proceedings in the United States District Courts* provides that upon preliminary consideration by the district court judge, "[i]f it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition and direct the clerk to notify the petitioner." Rule 4; *see also Small v. Endicott*, 998 F.2d 411, 414 (7th Cir. 1993).

Mr. Crawford brings two claims: 1) the conduct report was not issued within 24 hours, in violation of Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) policy; and 2) as a sanction, he was placed in credit class D, in violation of IDOC policy.


Relief pursuant to § 2254 is available only on the ground that a prisoner "is being held in violation of federal law or the U.S. Constitution." *Caffey v. Butler*, 802 F.3d 884, 894 (7th Cir.

2015). Prison policies, regulations, or guidelines do not constitute federal law; instead, they are "primarily designed to guide correctional officials in the administration of a prison . . . not . . . to confer rights on inmates." *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 481-82 (1995). Therefore, claims based on prison policy, such as the ones asserted here, are not cognizable and do not form a basis for habeas relief. *See Keller v. Donahue*, 271 F. App'x 531, 532 (7th Cir. 2008) (rejecting challenges to a prison disciplinary proceeding because, "[i]nstead of addressing any potential constitutional defect, all of [the petitioner's] arguments relate to alleged departures from procedures outlined in the prison handbook that have no bearing on his right to due process."); *Rivera v. Davis*, 50 F. App'x 779, 780 (7th Cir. 2002) ("A prison's noncompliance with its internal regulations has no constitutional import – and nothing less warrants habeas corpus review."); *see also Estelle v. McGuire*, 502 U.S. 62, 68 at n.2 (1991) ("[S]tate-law violations provide no basis for federal habeas relief.").

The petition and exhibits thereto show that Mr. Crawford is not entitled to relief. He shall have **through February 19, 2021**, in which to **show cause** why this action should not be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to Rule 4. Failure to respond as directed will result in the dismissal of the action for the reasons set forth in this Entry.

SO ORDERED.

Date: 1/19/2021


James Patrick Hanlon
United States District Judge
Southern District of Indiana

Distribution:

TYLER ALLEN CRAWFORD

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NEW CASTLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY - Inmate Mail/Parcels

1000 Van Nuys Road

NEW CASTLE, IN 47362